Bilateral agreement between India and Norway

1112. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India and Norway have signed a bilateral agreement to cooperate in hydropower, Oil exploration, chemicals and petrochemicals and electronics sector;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof; and

(c) what are the benefits which will accrue to India due to this agreement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Implementation of code of conduct for Diplomatic personnel between India and Pak

1113. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH:
SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have proposed to the Government of Pakistan for the review of implementation of the Code of Conduct for diplomatic personnel agreed upon between the two countries in August 1992 in the light of constant harassment of members of Indian Mission in Islamabad and Karachi;

(b) if so, what are the details of the proposal;

(c) how many times the Government of Pakistan have violated the above said Code of Conduct and the details of each such case and the action taken by Government in each case; and

(d) the number and details of Pakistani and Indian diplomatic staff and others expelled from each country during the last two years and the reasons therefor in respect of each case?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) and (b) Government proposed on April 7, 1994 to the Government of Pakistan that consultations between the two Foreign Offices may be held for a review of the implementation of the Code of Conduct. This proposal has not yet found favour with Islamabad. Meanwhile, discussions were recently held in New Delhi and in Islamabad between officials of the concerned Mission and Ministry to discuss the range of issues involved. Several suggestions were made on ways and means of improving implementation of the Code of Conduct in letter and spirit. Both sides also agreed to hold further discussions on this subject.

(c) Since the signing of the Code of Conduct in August, 1992, there have been more than 145 incidents of breach of the Code involving obtrusive and intimidatory surveillance and harassment of our personnel posted in the Missions in Pakistan. These incidents have been taken up on a case-by-case basis with the Pakistan authorities.

(d) During the last two years Government have requested Pakistan to withdraw from India nine of their officials posted in New Delhi and Bombay for activities incompatible with their status. During this period Pakistan has expelled ten of our officials posted in Islamabad and Karachi.

Resentment among the fishermen of Tamil Nadu over their rights

1114. SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether fishermen in Tamil Nadu have threatened to go on agitation if they are denied their traditional rights and access to Kachchativu Islands in Pak Straits which divides India and Sri Lanka; and

(b) if so, the action Government proposed to take to protect their rights?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED) (a) and (b) The Government is aware of wide-spread resentment among fishermen in the coastal areas of Tamil Nadu over the incidents of attacks on Indian fishermen in the Pak Straits. This issue has been taken up strongly by the Government with the Government of Sri Lanka. The two sides have agreed to implement effectively the measures devised to prevent such incidents. The two Governments continue to discuss all relevant aspects of this matter, including the traditional rights of Indian fishermen in respect of the island of Kachchativu as provided under the Maritime boundary Agreement of 1974 between India and Sri Lanka.

Steps to boost tourism

1115. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any steps like lifting of Visa restrictions to boost tourism in the country, if so, the details of steps taken in this regard recently; and

(b) what is the number of tourists which Government expect will visit India as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED) (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

US Republican Party report on Kashmir

1116. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a report prepared recently by the Republican Party of America has warned that fighting in Kashmir is likely to be escalated and expanded to other parts of India?

(b) whether it is also a fact that according to the report Pakistan has the support of other Islamic countries in wresting Kashmir from India; if so which are those countries; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take or have already taken to meet the new threat and also to convince other countries involved about India's point of view?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED) (a) Government are aware of the above statement made in a report entitled "The Kashmir Connection" which has been prepared by the Task Force of Terrorism and Unconventional Warfare of the House Republican Research Committee, a non-official organisation.

(b) The report states that "many Islamist groups believe that the wresting of Kashmir from India would be a great prize acquired at minimal cost and-would inspire their followers and further the cause".

(c) Government remain committed to taking strong and effective measures on the ground to counter terrorist activity aided and abetted by Pakistan. Government are regularly apprising foreign Governments of Pakistan's active involvement in infiltrating men and material into J&K for promoting terrorism.